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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,267	07/09/2003	Jason R. Sullivan	98-P0163US04 [209.1270014]	1701
54953	7590	10/05/2009	EXAMINER	
BROOKS, CAMERON & HUEBSCH, PLLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 500 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403			SEVERSON, RYAN J	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
		3731		
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
10/05/2009	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/616,267	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SULLIVAN ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Ryan J. Severson	<b>Art Unit</b> 3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 55,56,61,62,65-77 and 81-89 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 82-84 and 89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 55,56,61,62,65-77,81 and 85-88 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Hachtman et al. (5,645,559).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 55, 56, 61, 62, 65, 67, 72-77, 81 and 85-88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hachtman et al. (5,645,559).** Hachtman et al.

disclose a stent delivery system comprising an outer sheath (18) and a stabilizer (26).

The stabilizer comprises a non-inflatable inner core (54) having a plurality of ring-shaped protuberances (58, 60, 62, 64) that contact the inner surface of the stent (see column 5, lines 13-17) to frictionally engage the stent. This frictional engagement prevents the stent from moving relative to the stabilizer during retraction of the outer sheath. The rings are even distributed along a length of the inner core and the stent (as in figures 5). The stabilizer can also include a proximal shoulder not disposed under the stent (as in figure 22).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claim 66 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachtman et al. (5,645,559) in view of Ravenscroft et al. (5,480,423).** Hachtman et al. fail to disclose the sheath has a lower coefficient of friction than the stabilizer.

Attention is drawn to Ravenscroft et al. who teach the use of a Teflon sheath (see column 5, line 21) to minimize the friction between the sheath and stent and stabilizer during retraction of the sheath. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the sheath of Hachtman et al. of Teflon in the manner taught by Ravenscroft et al. to minimize the friction between the sheath and stent and stabilizer during retraction of the sheath.

6. **Claims 68-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachtman et al. (5,645,559).** Hachtman et al. fail to disclose a coating on the stabilizer core. However, Examiner asserts including coatings on catheter shafts is well-known in the art. An example would be providing an anti-biotic coating on the shaft to help prevent infection during the surgical procedure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a coating on the stabilizer of Hachtman et al. to prevent infection during surgery.

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan J. Severson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30-5:00.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. J. S./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3731  
9/30/09

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731  
9/30/09